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THE OBSERVATOR.

On our News from Flanders *falling ſhort of what it was at firſt. The Deſigns of the* French *there, baffl'd, and their Boaſts confuted. The Care of the* Dutch *in having Deputies with their Army, &c. On the Thankſgiving in our Camp. The* Rehearſer's *Falſhood in aſſerting, that the Epiſcopal Clergy in* Scotland *are perſecuted for their Opinion. An Inſtance of their inveterate Malice to her Majeſty. 'Tis reaſonable the* Scotch *Lords and Commons ſhould enquire who it is countenances this Libeller; and that they ſhould encourage their own Way of Worſhip here.*

From Saturday, November 27. to Wednesday, December 1. 1708.

Country-m. I Want your Opinion, Maſter, about the News from *Flanders*; for I find ſome People are ſorry, and others are glad, that our Advantage there falls ſhort of what was talk'd of at firſt.

Obſ. I tell you freely, *Roger*, I think them both in the wrong; for thoſe who are ſorry, ſhould conſider, that we ought not to preſcribe to Providence, and that the Advantage is greater than we deſerve; and thoſe who are glad, I am certain have no Reaſon to triumph; for their Great Patron, the *French* King, will ſcarce order *Te Deum* to be ſung for it, except it be in Compliance with a good honeſt Saying in *Holland*, *That when a Man breaks his Leg, he ought to thank God that he did not break his Neck.*

Country-m. Aye but, Maſter, they ſay, that had it been a Slip in any of the common News-papers, it had not been ſo material; but that a Paper publiſh'd by Authority ſhould ſay we had taken 17 Battalions and 70 Cannon, when there was nothing in it, is not well.

Obſ. Thoſe People ought to conſider, *Roger*, that the News you ſpeak of, came by Way of *Oſtend*, where there was no Communication with our Army, but 'twas ſent over from thence as General *Erle* had it from thoſe who brought him the Intelligence. However, 'tis well it holds in the main, That *Bruſſels* is reliev'd, when reduc'd to ſo great a Strait, that the late Elector of *Bavaria* has been repuls'd from before it with ſo great Loſs and Diſgrace; and that we have clear'd the *Scheld* of the *French*, from *Ghent* to *Tournay*, with ſo little Loſs on our Side. I am ſatisfy'd every thinking Man would have been glad to have had the Hopes of hearing half ſo much, not many Days ago.

Country-m. That's very true, Maſter; but ſome People are never ſatisfy'd.

Obſ. I am ſure, *Roger*, the *French* King has no great Reaſon to be ſatisfy'd; and I believe his Friends here, who rejoyce that the Advantage falls ſhort of our Expectation, do but laugh on one Side of their Mouths; for beſides the Diſgrace of running away without ſtriking a Stroke, from their ſtrong Intrenchments about *Audenard*, and their Lines all along the *Scheld*, they have loſt all the Labour and Expence they have been at to cut off our Communication with *Brabant*, and the united Provinces, and their mighty Boaſts and Expectations, that they would ſtarve our Army, and cut off their Retreat to our own Country, are all come to nothing.

Country-m. I perceive the Deputies of the States of *Holland* think the ſaving of *Bruſſels* a mighty Thing, Maſter; for had that been taken, I conjecture, by their Letter, that the Frontiers of *Holland*, with the Towns of *Antwerp*, *Lovain*, *Mechlen*, and *Lier*, had run a Risk, and perhaps *Audenard* might not have been ſafe. I cannot but commend the *Dutch*, Maſter; they are a wiſe and careful People; they have Deputies every where, to take Care of their Buſineſs. We find thoſe at *Bruſſels* contributed much to the ſaving of the Town; their Preſence animated the Burghers and Magiſtrates, and much more the Troops in *Dutch* Pay: And we ſee they don't work to ungrateful Maſters; for the Deputies recommend them to the States: And I find they have Deputies in the Army too, who take Care of their Intereſt on all Occaſions; ſo that if their Generals and Troops be well pay'd, their Maſters, I perceive, will ſee with their own Eyes, that they be well ſerv'd. Would to God all the reſt of the Allies were as careful, Maſter: Had they been ſo, we ſhould have had a better Campaign on the *Upper Rhine*; the War might long ere now have been brought to a happy Concluſion, and a great deal of Money and Blood ſav'd.

Obſ. We muſt wait God's Time, *Roger*. I am very well ſatisfy'd, however, to hear, that his Mercies are own'd, and that Thanks were return'd him ſo ſolemnly in the Camp; where due Impreſſions of Religion, and the Worſhip of God, ought to be kept up.

Country-m. There was viſible Cauſe for it now, Maſter, ſince God gave us ſo unexpected an Advantage over the Enemy, and ſent ſuch a Spirit of Terror among them, as to make them run from their Lines, which, in all Probability, muſt have coſt us a great deal of Blood to have forc'd. I take this as a Preſage of better Things, Maſter; and that the *French* King may ſoon be effectually humbl'd, if the Blow be jointly purſu'd by all the Confederates, and Care taken to prevent their regaining by Treachery and Neglect, as they did *Ghent* and *Bruges*, what we wreſt out of their Hands by the Sword. But pray, Maſter, let you and I have a Blow at our Enemies at Home; for now that you have been expoſing the ill-natur'd Principles, and turbulent Practices of the *Rehearſer*'s Brethren, the High-flyers in *Ireland*, he attacks the Adminiſtration in *Scotland*, and charges them with perſecuting the Epiſcopal Clergy there, at a very unmerciful Rate.

Obſ. No Doubt, *Roger*, 'tis a terrible Perſecution in his Senſe, to ſhut up Meeting-houſes, where her Majeſty is never remember'd, and where the Pretender is never forgot, but frequently pray'd for under the Name of King *James* the VIII. and all the young Clergy of that Way, who go to the depriv'd Biſhops for Orders, are oblig'd to ſwear Allegiance to him, before they can have the indelible Character.

Country-m. But he ſays, Maſter, there's no Law, requiring the Preachers in Epiſcopal Meetings-houſes, to take the Oaths to her Majeſty, ſince they are not entitl'd to any Benefices; and I ſuppoſe 'tis the ſame as to praying for her.

Obſ. Nor is there any Law for their Meeting-houſes, *Roger*; therefore the Magiſtrate is not oblig'd to ſuffer them: And I know no Reaſon why they ſhould not be Voluntiers in praying for her Majeſty, as well as Voluntiers in preaching to her Subjects, or at leaſt in praying for the Pretender; for which they cannot be ſo ſhameleſs as to alledge there's a Law. However, *Roger*, I think the *Rehearſer*

hearſer does very well to put the Parliament of *Great Britain* in Mind of it, that they may take Care to make a Law, that no Perſon ſhall preſume to preach to any of her Majeſty's Subjects, without firſt owning her Majeſty to be Queen *de Jure*, as well as *de Facto*.

Country-m. But bleſs me, Maſter, did her Majeſty's Servants in *Scotland*, while there was a ſeparate Adminiſtration there, ſuffer any Man to paſs unpuniſh'd, that preſum'd to pray for the Pretender, under the Name of *James* the VIII.

Obſ. 'Tis certain that was done, *Roger*; but we never heard of any Body proſecuted for it, tho' it be high Treaſon by their Law.

Country-m. Nay, then, Maſter, I ſhall ceaſe to wonder any more at the Pretender's Attempt to land there; for he had very good Reaſon to think he would be very welcome to a Country, where he was publickly pray'd for without Controul. Nor ſhall I trouble my Head any more to enquire, why the *Scotch* Garriſons were ſo ill provided, and the Nation in a Poſture ſo unfit to oppoſe him; for the firſt Neglect you mention, explains all the reſt. But pray, Maſter, tell me plainly, is the Epiſcopal Party proſecuted, there or not, as the *Rehearſer* ſays they are?

Obſ. Why do you ask me the Queſtion, *Roger*? Does not that Author aſſert it to you, *in Verbo Sacerdotis*, on the Faith of a Prieſt?

Country-m. I believe it ne'er a Whit the more for that, Maſter; for I have heard People ſay, they have known Prieſts that would lie like Almanack-makers.

Obſ. How is that, *Roger*?

Country-m. Why, Maſter, that's every Day in the Year, and every Hour in the Day; and the *Rehearſer* has been ſo often convicted of notorious Lies, that I am afraid he is one of that Sort.

Obſ. There's no Doubt on't, *Roger*; and as for his Accuſation againſt the *Scots*, I think the Lords and Commons of that Country, who are now in Parliament, may very plainly ſee there are ſome People here, who deſign no ſuch Thing as an indefeaſible Security to their Eccleſiaſtical Conſtitution, when a ſeditious Libeller is ſuffer'd, with Impunity, to brand them ſo frequently, as being guilty of the like Rebellion with the Sons of *Korah*; and tells them now to their Faces, in his Paper of *Saturday* laſt, that their Miniſters are no true Miniſters of Chriſt, but Intruders upon their lawful Biſhops.

Country-m. In my Opinion, Maſter, the *Rehearſer*, inſtead of making Apology for thoſe he calls the perſecuted Epiſcopal Party in *Scotland*, has drawn up an Indictment againſt them; for if they be of ſuch ſeditious Principles, as ſtill to look upon thoſe as their lawful Biſhops, who are ſet aſide by the Authority of Law, then 'tis plain, they fly in the Face of Queen and Parliament, and are declar'd Enemies to the Revolution, her Majeſty's Title, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, which would juſtify much ſeverer Meaſures, than any that have yet been taken againſt them; for thoſe who diſown a Government, deſerve none of its Protection, but to fall under the Weight of its Reſentment.

Obſ. Thoſe People, *Roger*, account nothing to be Law, that has been enacted ſince the Revolution; for the *Rehearſer* and his Party reckon that to have been Rebellion; and all the *Scotch* Biſhops, whom the *Rehearſer* will ſtill have to be lawful Biſhops over that Church, in their Addreſs to King *James*, pray'd, That God would give him the Necks of his Enemies to trample upon; and thoſe were chiefly the Prince of *Orange*, the Princeſs his Lady, and Princeſs *Ann*, now her preſent Majeſty; for they were the principal Perſons who headed and encourag'd thoſe that took Arms in Defence of our Laws, Liberties, and Religion, that were invaded by the late K. *James*, and his Miniſters; all which, being undeniable Fact, *Roger*, you may ſee what Party 'twas, who had a Mind to ſee her Majeſty's white Neck expos'd to the Ax, which the *Rehearſer* would ſo unjuſtly charge upon the Whigs, tho' all the World knows, that 'twas the Whiggiſh Principle, and Practice of reſiſting Tyrants alone, that, under God, ſav'd her Majeſty's Head, and preſerv'd it to wear the Crown of her Anceſtors; which, by the Providence of the Almighty, ſhe has, in the Compaſs of a few Years, made more glorious, than any that ever yet wore it. The Particulars of the *Rehearſer*'s Charge againſt the *Scots*, as Perſecutors of the Epiſcopal Clergy, we muſt refer to another Opportunity, *Roger*; I ſhall only add at preſent, that, in my poor Opinion, that the Lords and Commons of that Country are particularly concern'd to enquire who 'tis that encourages this Slanderer to belie their Conſtitution, and that, if they have any Regard to the Honour of their own Church, which is unalterable by the Union, they ſhould teſtify their Firmneſs to it, by obtaining a Place where they may publickly have their own Worſhip; and 'till that can be procur'd, in thoſe legal Aſſemblies, where their own Way is follow'd; ſince they find themſelves libell'd by a late Pamphleteer, for countenancing their own Church at home, and another abroad; not that I would reflect upon any of them, whoſe Principles allow them to attend both. But ſince there is ſo much Dirt thrown every Day upon their Church Conſtitution, in the preſerving of which, they know the Peace of their own Country, and indeed, of the whole Iſland, to be ſo much concern'd, one would think, that merely from a Principle of Honour and Bravery, for which their Anceſtors have been ſo much fam'd, they ſhould let the World ſee, that tho' their Charity to all Proteſtants be extenſive, yet they are not indifferent, as to their Conſtitution; which, as it would endear them to their own People at home, would raiſe their Eſteem with all Men of Honour and Moderation abroad: Whereas, they ſee the contrary Practice has a quite contrary Effect.

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